Economic & Environmental Sustainability

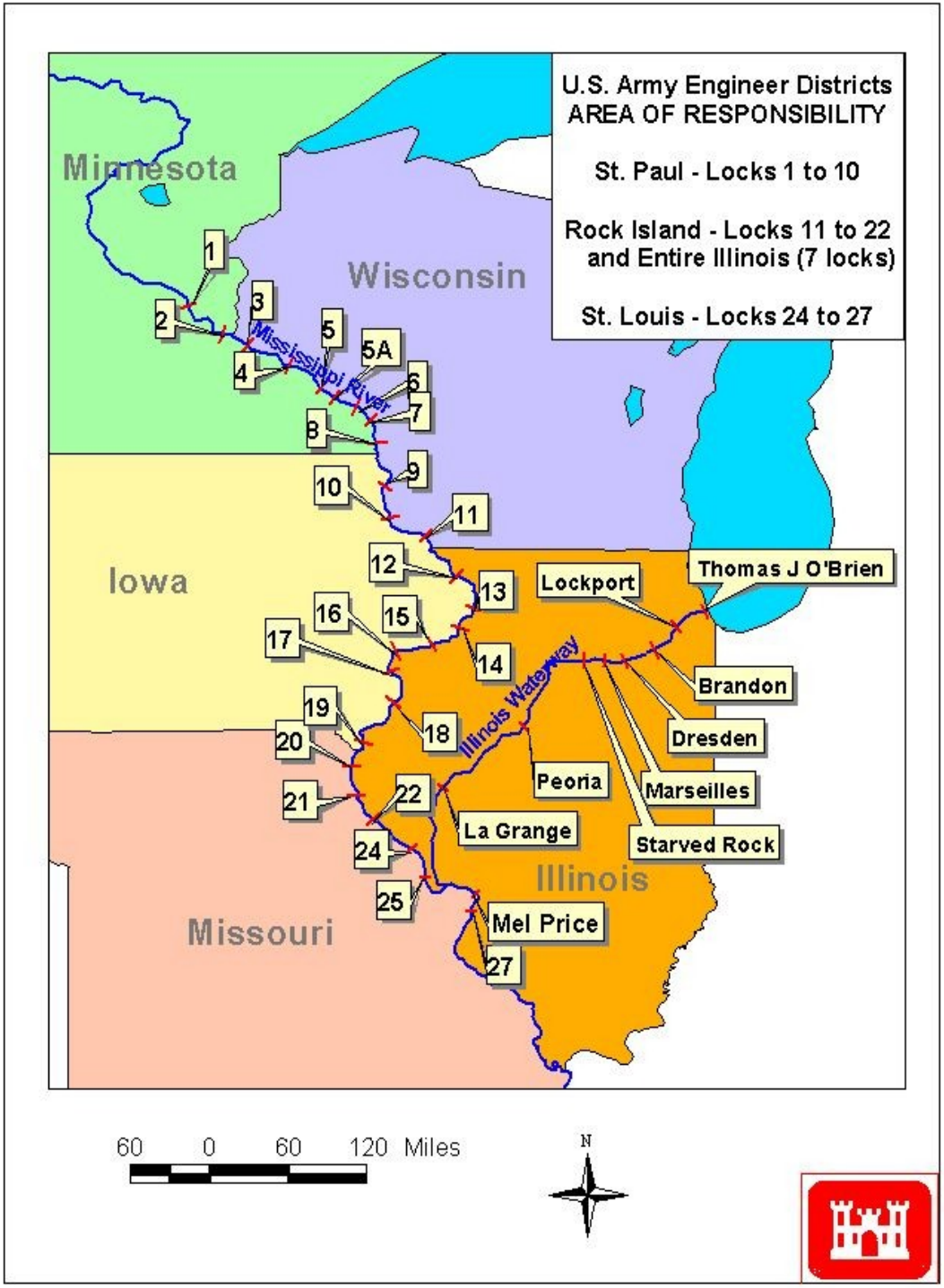
USACE Conference on Economic and Environmental Analysis

New Orleans, LA

July 2002

Upper Mississippi Basin

- 1,200 miles of navigable waterway
- Over 2.6 million acres of aquatic, wetland, forest, grassland and agricultural habitats
- Over 450 privately owned terminals
- Navigation system with 43 locks at 37 dam sites
- Flyway to more than 40% of migratory waterfowl in the U.S.


U.S. Army Engineer Districts
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY
St. Paul - Locks 1 to 10
Rock Island - Locks 11 to 22
and Entire Illinois (7 locks)
St. Louis - Locks 24 to 27
Minnesota
Wisconsin
Iowa
Illinois
Missouri
Mississippi River
Illinois Waterway
1
2
3
4
5
5A
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
24
25
27
Lockport
Thomas J O'Brien
Brandon
Dresden
Marseilles
Peoria
La Grange
Starved Rock
Mel Price
60 0 60 120 Miles
N

Economics

- Over 130 million tons of commodities on the Upper and 44 million on the Illinois
- Over 60% of U.S. Grain Exports
- Over 400,000 jobs supported
- Income exceeding $4 B per year
- Over 90,000 manufacturing jobs affected
- Recreational visits exceeding 11 million per year

Environmental

- Food and habitat for at least 485 species of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and fish
- 10 Federally endangered or threatened species and 100 state-listed species
- Over 270,000 acres of national wildlife and fish refuge

Social

- Water supply for 22 communities, farmers and industries
- Over 4 million trucks kept off the highways
- Over 1 million fewer rail cars crossing through communities and at intersections
- Saves over $32 million per year in fewer accident and traffic-related deaths
- Fewer air emissions

Congressional Recognition

WRDA 1986

"nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system"

Historical Conflict

- From inception – Izaak Walton League
- Commercial development priority
- Wealth = Environmental Focus
- Knowledge Base Expands
- Modal Competition Fuels Conflict (70s)
- Large Rivers Biology (Present)
- Differing agendas

Navigation Study

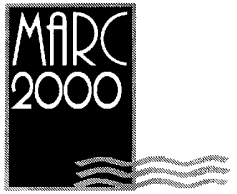
- Overloaded from the beginning
- Lack of Congressional Priority (EMP)
- Frustration with Narrow focus
- Flawed Economic Model
- Complex Challenge

Restructured Study

- Collaborative approach
- Sustainability as the guide
- Vision Statement
- Created Definition

Vision Statement

"To seek long-term sustainability of the economic uses and ecological integrity of the Upper Mississippi River System"



Sustainability

"The balance of economic, ecological, and social conditions so as to meet the current, projected, and future needs of the Upper Mississippi River System without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs"

Practical Hurdles

- Efforts at collaboration productive
- Significant effort put into developing “Interim Report.”
- Disappointing results
- Inconsistency between regional dialogue and DC-based objectives

Areas of Concern

- Economic Models
- Environmental Analysis
- NRC as Infallible
- Forecasts vs. Scenarios
- Timing
- Lack of Trust

Missing the Boat

- WRDA ‘02 Opportunities
- Misplaced Emphasis against making immediate progress
- Differing Policy Objectives
- Devil in Details - Sustainability

Stay Tuned

- Growing revolution in our basin
- Competition is growing in global markets
- Paralysis by Analysis
- Conflict will grow unless checked
- Is it really about the Environment?